

demonstration is given of the influence of surroundings and exposure on plants. Each group has of course a sunny and shaded side, a dry and a humid surface; and a notable and striking distinction is established between the vegetation of the north and south side of the same hillside. On the south side with fullest exposure to the sun and drought are established the xerophilous plants, *Potentillas*, pinks, Geraniaceae, *Artemisia Pedemontana*, *Achillea argentea*, as well as most all of the labiates. On the north side are the hygrophylous plants, *Saxifrages*, *Rhododendron*, *Mimulus*, various *Silenes*, *Valeriana Celtica*, etc.

It is thus shown in these few notes that the garden is not only a collection of alpine plants but also of alpine conditions gathered into a small space and easily accessible for study. Not the least interesting and valuable collection and certainly a unique one in its way, is that of the mosses. The region is bryologically a remarkably rich one, and the project has been formed by the Director, Professor Wilczek, and the distinguished bryologist M. Jules Amann, to list the species of mosses growing on the rocks, which after numbering the rocks, will establish a catalogue of the mosses of the valley. On many of the boulders as many as forty species have been enumerated.

A. M. V.

SHORTER NOTES.

TULIPA SYLVESTRIS IN THE FLORA OF THE UNITED STATES.—On May 6th, while driving along a thicket in a rich ravine near Sellersville, Pa., I discovered the *Tulipa sylvestris* L. growing in considerable abundance. Later it was found in the meadows a mile up the stream. Upon inquiry it was ascertained that it had been growing there for at least five years.

At the same time it was reported from Lansdale, Pa., a point ten miles from the first mentioned locality. Here it was found in a meadow, from which it had spread into an adjoining truck-patch, and thence into a wooded ravine.

It is thoroughly established in both localities, and should be included in the flora of the United States.—C. D. FRETZ, M.D.

NOCCA AND CRACCA.—In the recently published contributions from the Gray Herbarium of Harvard University (new series), No. 20 (Proc. Am. Acad. 36 : 467), Dr. B. L. Robinson gives us a "Synopsis of the Genus *Nocca*." He remarks: "The name *Nocca* (given by Cavanilles in 1795 in honor of Dominico Nocca, professor of botany at Padua) is clearly the one to be employed for this genus by those who wish to apply consistently the generally conservative Berlin Rules. From the definite characterization and excellent figure given by Cavanilles there can be no doubt as to the identity of his genus *Nocca*, and the fact that the name was taken up in the same sense within fifty years by Persoon, Jacquin, La Llave, and Sweet, should establish its validity."

Dr. Robinson's acceptance of *Nocca* and his rejection of *Cracca* are inconsistent; it is clear that he construes his "generally-conservative" Berlin-fifty-year-limit-rule to suit his fancy. The genus *Cracca* was employed by Linnaeus in *Species Plantarum*, 1753, for six species, all subsequently referred to the later genus *Tephrosia* of Persoon, 1807; in 1769, sixteen years after Linnaeus' publication, *Cracca* was used by J. Hill in "Hortus Kewensis" for *C. Virginiana*, one of the Linnaean species, so its validity is well enough established. Of course the phonetics of these generic names are not very usual, but if Dr. Robinson can go *Nocca* there seems no good reason why he should not go *Cracca*.—N. L. BRITTON.

NOMENCLATORIAL NOTE.—New names have recently been proposed for two of the commonest plants of the Rocky Mountain region. Before accepting them as they stand, certain questions have to be raised, as follows:

I. *Castilleja alpina* (Porter). This was described as a variety of what we used to call *C. pallida*. It was said to be woolly pubescent, few-flowered, flowers almost concealed in uncolored floral leaves. It is, as I understand it, the form of the species found in the Hudsonian zone, hardly specifically separable from the plant so common lower down. Now Dr. Rydberg (Bull. Torr. Bot. Club, 28 : 29) calls the ordinary plant of lower elevations

C. luteovirens. This may be distinct from *alpina*, but whether it is or not, surely *alpina* stands.

2. *Trifolium heterodon* (Watson). This was introduced (Proc. Am. Acad. 8: 130) as a variety of the plant we used to call *T. involucratum*. Now Dr. Greene says this is not *involucratum*, and proposes for it the name *T. Fendleri*. It seems doubtful whether *Fendleri* is a species distinct from *heterodon*, but in any case the name of prior date is valid.—T. D. A. COCKERELL.

MOSES OF THE CATSKILL MOUNTAINS, N. Y.—The Decoration Day trip of the Torrey Club to Woodland Valley resulted in a fine collection of mosses. The best discovery was *Bryum proligerum*, which was found fruiting at one station; it usually propagates by slender, branching gemmae from the axils of the upper leaves. We also found one log covered with *Dicranum viride* in fine fruit and on one old sugar maple gathered *Zygodon viridissimus*. *Buxbaumia aphylla* was in fine condition on a roadside bank and on dripping ledges of a quarry were found *Bartramia Oederiana*, *Trichostomum tenuirostre*, *Homalia gracilis* and *Bryum capillare*. On Slide Mountain at an elevation of 3,500 ft., on cliffs and ledges among balsams, were collected fine specimens of *Raphidostegium Jamesii* and *R. laxepatulum*; *Plagiothecium striatellum* and *P. Müllerianum*; *Hylocomium umbratum* and *H. Pyrenaicum*; *Dicranum fuscescens* and *D. longifolium*.

ELIZABETH G. BRITTON.

NEWS ITEMS

Dr. Marshall A. Howe, who has recently been appointed an assistant Curator in the New York Botanical Garden, is spending the months of July and August in Nova Scotia and Newfoundland, making collections for the Garden. He is accompanied by Clifton D. Howe, Fellow in Botany in the University of Chicago, and by William Lang, a Museum Aid at the Garden.

Dr. Alexander P. Anderson, recently of Clemson College, South Carolina, and of the University of Minnesota, has been appointed Curator of the Herbarium of Columbia University.